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Title:

Address at the Exhibition of Works by Advanced Students of the South Australian School
of Arts

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ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, HON. D.A. DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P.
AT THE EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY ADVANCED STUDENTS OF THE SOUTH
AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF ARTS.

12/5/71.

MR. CHAIRMAN,
MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUE,
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO BE ABLE TO OPEN THIS EVENING THIS
EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY ADVANCED STUDENTS OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
SCHOOL OF ART.

AS MANY OF YOU WOULD KNOW, THE EXHIBITION IS PART OF A DELIBERATE
MOVE BY THE ART GALLERY BOARD TO DEVISE AN EXHIBITION PROGRAMME THAT
HAS WIDE COMMUNITY INTEREST.

THIS EXHIBITION FEATURES, IN ADDITION TO PAINTING AND SCULPTURE, OTHER
EXAMPLES OF THE INCREASING VARIETY OF WORK BEING UNDERTAKEN BY
STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL AND ONE HOPES THAT IT GAINS THE COMMUNITY
INTEREST IT DESERVES.

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THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF ART HAS BEEN NOW IN OPERATION
FOR SOME ONE HUNDRED AND TEN YEARS. IT COMMENCED IN THE OLD
(IT WAS THEN NEW) INSTITUTE BUILDING IN NORTH TERRACE IN FEBRUARY
OF 1861, AS "THE SCHOOL OF DESIGN".

SINCE THEN IT HAS MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE
CULTURAL LIFE OF THE STATE. WITH ITS ELEVATION TO THE STATUS OF
A SCHOOL OF ADVANCED EDUCATION, ONE CAN EXPECT ITS IMPACT OVER THE
NEXT DECADE TO BECOME EVEN MORE DYNAMIC AND FUNDAMENTALLY IMPORTANT
TO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

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BY 1977, IN ADDITION TO THE SUBJECTS AND COURSES NOW TAUGHT AT THE SCHOOL, IT IS INTENDED TO BROADEN THE RANGE TO INCLUDE SUCH AREAS AS PRODUCT, INTERIOR AND FURNITURE DESIGN, EXHIBITION AND DISPLAY DESIGN, STAGE AND T.V. DESIGN, PHOTOGRAPHY, TYPOGRAPHY AND BOOK DESIGN. IN FACT, IN SIX YEARS THE SCHOOL INTENDS TO EXPAND IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT WILL IN FACT BE COVERING EVERY MAJOR AREA OF CONTEMPORARY AESTHETIC DEVELOPMENT. THE POTENTIAL VALUE FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA OF SUCH A WIDE RANGING CURRICULUM IS INESTIMABLE.

BUT OF COURSE, NO MATTER HOW MUCH MONEY YOU SINK INTO A SCHOOL OF ART AND ITS FACILITIES, IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY FOLLOW THAT YOU ARE GOING TO AUTOMATICALLY PRODUCE A REMBRANDT, PICASSO, KLEE, OR BOYD. BUT WHAT YOU DO DO IS SIMPLY MAKE IT EASIER FOR TALENT OF A HIGH ORDER, OF IT'S AROUND.

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TREATING THE SOCIETY AS A WHOLE, HOWEVER, THE IMPACT OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE EDUCATED IN AESTHETIC CONCEPTS IS OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE. SUCH A BODY OF PEOPLE CAN AND SHOULD AFFECT OUR INDUSTRIES, THE DESIGN VALUES OF THE COMMUNITY, AND EVEN SIMPLY THE WAY THINGS ARE EVENTUALLY LOOKED AT OR TREATED, WHETHER THEY BE LANDSCAPES, CITYSCAPES, AND OBJECTS OF DOMESTIC USE OR RECREATION.

I BELIEVE THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE, NOT ONLY THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE SCHOOL OF ART, BUT ALSO THROUGH OTHER AREAS OF CREATIVE AND DESIGN ACTIVITY. THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME OF DEVELOPMENT IN ART EDUCATION, INDUSTRIAL DESIGN, HOUSING DESIGN, CITY AND TOWN PLANNING, THE PERFORMING ARTS, DESIGN AND CRAFT BASED INDUSTRIES, AND EVEN CONSERVATION, ARE ALL OF A PIECE.

THE OBJECT IS A CIVILISING ONE: AND ONE TRUSTS THE RESULT WILL BE A MORE EFFECTIVE AND SATISFYING CREATIVE AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. I THEREFORE HAVE MUCH PLEASURE IN DECLARING THIS EXHIBITION OPEN.
